

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 721

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS ATHENS 4769

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, GR

SUBJECT: PARLIAMENTARY DISCUSSION ON DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN

POLICY SITUATION

REF: ATHENS 4670 (NOTAL)

1. ON MAY 20 THE GREEK PARLIAMENT HELD ANOTHER OF ITS PERIODIC DISCUSSIONS ON NATIONAL ISSUES " AT THE LEVE OF PARTY LEADERS." THIS SESSION RESULTED FROM A PROPOSAL BY PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION LEADER MAVROS THAT THE CURRENT STRIKE SITUATION (REFTEL) BE DISCUSSED BY THE PARLIAMENT ON AN URGENT BASIS. THE PRIME MINISTER CHOSE TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REPORT TO THE PARLIAMENT ABOUT THE DOMESTIC SITUATION GENERALLY AND TO REVIEW THE STATUS OF IMPORTANT ISSUES IN GREECE'S FOREIGN RELATIONS, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF HIS MEETINGS IN LONDON LAST WEEK WITH WESTERN LEADERS ON THE OCCASION OF THE NATO SUMMIT.

2. A RECORD OF THE PARLIAMENTARY DISCUSSION WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL TOMORROW. HOWEVER, EMBASSY OBSERVERS WHO WERE PRESENT UNCLASSIFIED

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DURING THE HOUR OR SO OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH NOTED NOTHING ESPECIALLY NEW OR DIFFERENT FROM WHAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS BEEN SAYING RECENTLY ABOUT GREECE'S FOREIGN RELATIONS OR THE DOMESTIC SITUATION. THERE WERE NO SURPRISES. WHILE BLAMING TURKEY, AS HE HAS IN THE PAST, FOR THE PRESENT UNSATISFACTORY STATE OF GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS, HE ALSO STRESSED THAT GREECE REMAINED READY TO RESOLVE ITS DIFFERENCES WITH TURKEY THROUGH PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS

3. THE PRIME MINISTER AGAIN REITERATED, AS HE HAS ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS IN PARLIAMENT, THAT GREECE BELONGS IN THE WEST, WILL RETURN TO FULL PARTICIPATION IN NATO ONCE THE CAUSES WHICH LED TO ITS WITHDRAWAL FROM THE MILITARY WING OF THE ALLIANCE ARE REMOVED, AND IN THE EVENT OF GENERAL WAR WILL BE AT THE SIDE OF ITS NATO ALLIES. HE SPOKE ONLY BRIEFLY ON DOMESTIC MATTERS AND, WHEN HE FINISHED HIS SPEECH, CALLED ON MINISTER OF COORDINATION PAPALIGOURAS TO ADDRESS THE PARLIAMENT IN MORE DETAIL ABOUT THE ECONOMY AND ON THE SITUATION CREATED AS A RESULT OF RECENT STRIKES

4. THE OPPOSITION LEADERS SPOKE FOLLOWING THE STATEMENTS BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF COORDINATION. GEORGE MAVROS, PRESIDENT OF THE PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION PARTY, THE UNITED DEMOCRATIC CENTER, SPOKE FIRST. HE WAS FOLLOWED BY PAPNHELLENIC SOCIALIST MOVEMENT (PASOK) LEADER PAPANDREOU AND THEN ILIAS ILIOU, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED DEMOCRATIC LEFT. THE COMMUNIST PARTY (EXTERIOR) DEPUTIES AGAIN REFUSED TO BE PRESENT IN THE PARLIAMENT DURING THE DISCUSSION SINCE UNDER PARLIAMENTARY RULES THEIR LEADER IS NOT ALLOWED TO SPEAK IN DISCUSSIONS AT PARTY LEADER LEVEL

5. WE WILL BE REPORTING MORE FULLY LATER WHEN THE TEXTS OF THE VARIOUS STATEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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